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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 10 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 February 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus concerning the Supreme Council's ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 31 July 1991 and the Protocol thereto, signed at Lisbon on 25 May 1992, as well as the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "General and complete disarmament".

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Belarus to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

Letter dated 5 February 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 4 February 1993 the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus ratified the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 31 July 1991 and the Protocol thereto, signed at Lisbon on 25 May 1992, and also took a decision on the accession of Belarus, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

These decisions were taken in accordance with the consistent policy of Belarus to achieve the status of a neutral, non-nuclear-weapon State. For the first time in the history of the international community, a sovereign State has rejected, of its own free will, the possibility of possessing nuclear weapons. Having taken this unprecedented step, Belarus hopes that the international community will support its peace-loving policy and its desire to make its significant contribution to the strengthening of European and global security.

Of all the successor countries to the former USSR bound by the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, Belarus was the first and only State to declare its readiness to comply fully with its obligations under the Lisbon Protocol. The fact that Belarus has ratified the Treaty and the Protocol unconditionally and without any reservations has once again demonstrated the consistent and constructive nature of its foreign policy.

The results of the vote in the Supreme Council of Belarus reconfirm the fact that parliamentarians of all factions support the country's policy to achieve the status of a neutral, non-nuclear-weapon State.

The Republic of Belarus hopes that its position on questions of nuclear disarmament will be properly assessed by the international community.

(Signed) P. KRAVCHENKO